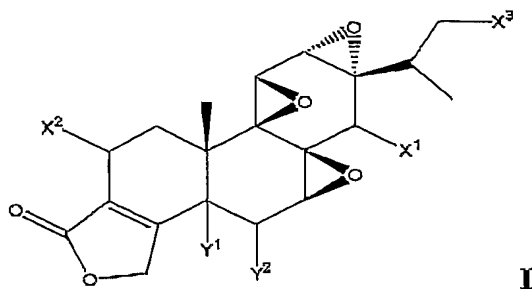


AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 20 September 2005 (20.09.05);
original claims 1-26 are unchanged; new claims 27-30 added (1 page)]

27. A method of preparing a 5-hydroxy triptolide compound of formula I :



where

X^1 is OR^1 , where R^1 is selected from hydrogen, $C(=O)R^2$, and $C(=O)OR^2$, where R^2 is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

X^2 and X^3 are independently OR^1 or hydrogen, at least one of X^2 and X^3 being hydrogen;

$Y^1 = OH$; and $Y^2 = H$;

by reaction of a starting triptolide compound of formula I in which X^1 , X^2 and X^3 are as defined above, $Y^1 = H$, and $Y^2 = H$, with selenium dioxide.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen and $C(=O)R^2$, and R^2 is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, and benzyl.

29. The method of claim 28, where R^1 is hydrogen.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein each of X^2 and X^3 is hydrogen, and said 5-hydroxy triptolide compound is 5 α -hydroxytriptolide.